
CENTRAL REGION COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2004
12:30 p.m.

Presiding: Jane Reister Conard, Chair

Present: Edward Armour, Cynthia Brothers, Jan Cook, Charles Daud, Greg Diven, Norman Fitzgerald, Bev Graham, Todd Henriksen, Jon Pierpont, Kevin Schofield, Karen Silver, Kerry Steadman, Russ Thelin, Dean Walker, Megan Weisen, Commissioner Gene D. White and Julie Zimmerman.

Excused: Allan Ayoub, Representative Brent Goodfellow, Paul Jackson and Steven Rosenberg.

Absent: Susan Archibeque, Deirdre Darby Duffin, Bo Hall, John Hill, Douglas Johnston, Stephen Ronnenkamp, Louie Silveira and Melva Sine.

Guests: Edie Fauver, Bob Gilbert, Akilah Messado and Jean Steidl

Staff: Karla Aguirre, Kim Auberger, Sarah Brenna, Leno Franco, Jane Gardner, Diane Lovell, Melissa Olsen, and Verene Froisland.

Note: A quorum was not present so action items will need to be ratified in February.

Call to Order & Announcements

Jane Reister Conard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Ms. Conard then introduced and welcomed Jon Pierpont as the new Central Region Director.

Mr. Pierpont stated that he is excited to be the new Central Region Director and that he looks forward to working closely with the Central Region Council. Mr. Pierpont then stated that he has asked Yvette Woodland to replace him as the Assistant Director of Eligibility Services for the region. Therefore, a new manager for the Downtown Employment Center will be chosen shortly.

Ms. Conard then gave special welcomes to Jean Steidl, the new Facilities Coordinator for the Department of Workforce Services and Bob Gilbert, Council Coordinator for the Department's Eastern Region.

Ms. Conard then commented on the State Council Meeting that was held on January 14th.

- One of the presentations given to the State Council was an **Equal Opportunity Compliance Presentation**. She would like to have this presentation given to the Council at some point in the next year.
- **Utah's Health Care Initiatives** – this is one sector of the economy that is growing and where there is a real labor shortage for particular types of trained health care providers. Paul Jackson has been working with the State DWS staff to develop some initiatives relating to nursing shortages. There are funds available to enhance the nursing training programs such as Big Opportunities for Registered Nurses (BORN). The solution to

nursing shortages is to train more nurses. The DWS is working on a plan that addresses health care shortages and is proposing a Governor-appointed Health Commission be established.

- Utah has been designated a **Mentor State for Business Services** by the Department of Labor and will mentor Nevada and the District of Columbia.
- The chairs of all of the Regional Councils discussed the need for **Council bylaws**. In addition to having trouble getting quorums, Council's do not have the authority to remove members. Neither the Utah Code nor the Administrative Rules provide for member removal. Therefore, Sarah Brenna, DWS Legislative Liaison, will be working with the Regional Councils to recommend language to amend the Code and provide Councils with self-governing authority.

The Holiday Reception, held on December 11th, was a great success. Approximately 60 people were in attendance, which included 6 legislators and several Youth Council members. Ms. Conard then stated that she feels that the Council is building good will with our Legislators.

Bob Gross, the first director of DWS, has been chosen to head up the workforce services effort in Iraq under the provisional administration.

The DWS Annual Report for 2003 is available.

Ms. Conard then asked all of the Council members to, "consider your role as a Council member, figure out how you can get the best return on your investment for your time as a Council member then help us to help you get the return."

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – Central Region Council meeting of Thursday, December 11, 2003 and Executive Committee meeting of Thursday, January 8, 2004.

Norman Fitzgerald moved to approve all of the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Dean Walker seconded the motion. All in attendance voted "Aye".

Ratification of January 8th Executive Committee Action

- A. Approve Training Provider Applications for CAD Solutions and Nursing Services Inc.
- B. Denial of Training Provider Applications for Breakthrough Management Group and Pioneer Health Inc.

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to ratify the action taken at the January 8th Executive Committee meeting as noted above. Russ Thelin seconded the motion. All in attendance voted "Aye".

Central Region Council Executive Roundtable

Gregory Diven explained his proposal for a Central Region Council Executive Roundtable. The objective of the Roundtable would be to provide an opportunity for open communication between private industry executives and DWS in order to enhance and/or educate on programs or services available through the Department. The Roundtable will have open discussions based on pre-determined agenda items and/or presentations by DWS and/or other subject matter experts to explain services, programs, policies, law changes, etc. which effect the business community. Mr. Diven then stated that the concept for an Executive Roundtable was

presented and approved by the Executive Committee on January 8th. He was appointed Chair and is now requesting volunteers to be on this ad hoc committee to brainstorm ideas, look at the feasibility of the whole process and plan for the initial meeting that he hopes to convene sometime before June 30th. Mr. Diven noted that he encourages members involved with education to participate and give their input because they will be major player in this process.

Mr. Thelin volunteered to be a member of the Executive Roundtable.

Ms. Conard then asked Mr. Diven to give a progress report at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Basic Needs – Karen Silver reviewed the Help Desk report for Oct-Dec 2003, which was included in the packet. Ms. Silver then spoke regarding the services on the West Side of Salt Lake City and stated that Diane Lovell and other DWS staff are working on doing a grid. Basic Needs is also working on a project to provide useful information to immigrants. Ms. Silver then commented on writing a letter of support for Raylene Ireland regarding an interim study of the FEP Cash Assistance time limits. Ms. Ireland has committed to meeting with Governor Walker on this issue.

Ms. Conard asked if the interim study issue could be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Silver responded in the affirmative.

Marketing – Edward Armour stated that the Marketing Committee went over the new marketing plan for 2004 to continue to promote jobs at Utah.gov and to better target business services to the employers that are hiring. The Marketing Committee has been volunteered to help with the planning for the annual retreat coming up on April 22nd. Mr. Armour then encouraged the Council members to get involved and have a say – make it the kind of retreat that they would like to see. Mr. Armour then announced that there would be a meeting on February 6th at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the retreat agenda.

Training & Development – Mr. Fitzgerald moved to forward Columbia College to the State for approval as a new training vendor. Mr. Armour seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Aye”.

Facilities – Mr. Fitzgerald stated that DWS staff is gathering some demographics and statistical information for both Salt Lake and Tooele Counties that will be available the first part of February. Mr. Fitzgerald then welcomed Jean Steidl, the new Facilities Coordinator for the Department of Workforce Services and stated that he looks forward to working with her.

Youth Council – There was no report at this time.

Legislative Issues Update

Sarah Brenna addressed four budget requests that were approved and included as part of the Governor's budget – general assistance, food stamps, electronic Resource and Eligibility Product (eREP) and childcare money.

- The State got approval to ask for \$2.4 million in the general assistance program funds.
- The State is asking for \$400,000 for food stamp program funding needs. There was a mandatory match rate change, which means we would need about \$450,000 to continue our food stamp, employment and training program. We are also asking for \$945,000 one-time money for the food stamp program caseload growth.

- eREP is a system that the State has been working on for a couple of years that will develop efficient and integrated eligibility determination and referral services for Utah's residents in need of economic, health-related and other supportive services. We are asking for \$6.3 million in State funds for this program.
- The State is asking for \$1 million for childcare match. This would replace some of the money that has been lost over the last couple of years.

Training Presentation & Status Report

Ms. Conard stated that part of the Council's role, according to statute, is to oversee and be involved in training. So, we have asked for a report on the status of training within our region. Karla Aguirre is going to present that information to us for the first time.

Ms. Aguirre opened her presentation by stating that one of the things DWS has talked about is educating the Council on our customer training services. Central Region has had some difficulty in getting customers enrolled and getting its training money spent. A PowerPoint overview of "Training" followed and included an identification of DWS Customer Training Services goals, training eligibility requirements and the legislative requirement that training be provided after core services and a customer search for suitable employment.

Mr. Fitzgerald spoke concerning one of the strategies mentioned for Central Region – increasing the training cap from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Mr. Fitzgerald asked who can change the training cap amount.

Ms. Aguirre stated that the Council could make a recommendation to the State Council. She went on to clarify that supervisors can go over that cap, but as a general rule and practice the cap is \$5,000.

Mr. Armour asked if \$7,000 is a realistic number?

Ms. Aguirre stated that it could be more but we were trying to be conservative.

Mr. Diven commented that Ms. Aguirre gave a very nice presentation. Mr. Diven then asked what the qualifying level of income is for a family of four?

Ms. Aguirre stated that she did not have that information but that it is based on poverty guidelines and family size. She then offered to e-mail the information to the Council members.

Ms. Conard complimented Ms. Aguirre on an excellent presentation. This gives the Council the hard data to explain why it is difficult to utilize training funds. Ms. Conard then stated that addressing the training issue is one area that needs to be a team effort and it is certainly clear now how the Council can participate. She asked members to bring their ideas to the Council so that in a year from now "we can have better-looking statistics."

Regional Director's Report & Eligibility Center Update

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed to a later date.

Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

New Business

Todd Henriksen announced that February 2nd is Job Shadow Day with the YES Program. There is still time to sign up to have youth come in to your company for a tour or a short visit.

Ms. Conard noted that if anyone could participate it would be a great opportunity for the youth.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.